EXPLOSION AT LORD ASHTOWN'S LODGE, GLENAHIERY, COUNTY WATERFORD.

COPIES of the Reports of County Inspector JENNESS, Royal Irish Constabulary, to the Police Authorities, dated 14th August, 1907, 17th August, 1907, and 14th September, 1907.

Presented to both Kouses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY ALEXANDER THOM & CO. (LIMITED), ABBEY-STREET.

And to be uprobased either directly on the order of Parkellin for

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from K. POSHONEN, 116, Graffon-street, Dublin; or WFMAX AND SOOS, LTD., Petter-lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon-street, Westminster, S.W.; or GAUNE & BORD, Terodidal-source, Edibburgh.

[Cd. 4010.] Price 1d.

1908.

inted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation

ATTEMPT TO WRECK GLENAHIERY LODGE, PROPERTY OF LORD ASHTOWN.

Waterford.

DUNGARVAR, 14th August, 1907.

I have to report that whilst here on inspection I received a wire at 1 have to repore since winner note on inspection I record a wife at 10½ am. that an attempt was made to blow up Lord Ashtown's shooting residence about a mile from Ballymacarberry, by exploding a bomb of some description on his drawing-room window sill about 1½ am. to-day. I visited the scene at 14 p.m. and found that one of the windows on W. side of house was blown in by force of explosion, which also blew down the door opposite, leading into the hall, shattering glass in two other windows in same room; the force of explosion crossed the hall into room opposite and also shattered the glass in one window thereof. The force also passed into back of hall and forced asunder and shattered a large circular fanlight placed at height of upper Lord Ashtown was in bed over the drawing-room and heard the Soon after, his gamekeeper Graham roused him up and both proceeded downstairs to find the curtains of drawing-room in flames and a strong smell of burning petroleum. They succeeded in putting out the flames, meanwhile sending the under-gamekeeper to Police Barracks for Police. The gamekeeper's attention was first drawn to the matter by his wife who was nursing a child. So far it has not been ascertained if any persons outside the house heard of the noise. Under the window were found the shattered the house heard of the noise. Under the window word found the snatteres remains of an oval-shaped metal pot (about 1 foot by 9 inches) and its cover, also an iron clamping which would appear to have passed round the pot and fastened at upper ends with a cross piece with holes at ends to fit in on the extremities of the other which were prepared for nuts to be scrowed on and so held tight. A quantity too of burnt fuse and a piece of lath with remains of fuse in three separate holes about four inches apart, evidently intended to regulate or direct the several three fuses. In the lid wore also found holes drilled apparently to receive the fuses. A suck too saturated with parafin and remains of at least four bottles which likely contained parafin; also an old can for purposes of carrying the various articles. I had a long interview with Lord Ashtown. He suspects none of his Waterford tenantry, &c., for the outrage, but is of opinion it was planned by some of his Woodlawn tenants and aided by some one in the neighbourhood of Glenahiery. He does uot wish for police protection (personal), but would like to have a patrol about whilst he remains. This I have ordered. He appeared to be very little disturbed by what no doubt was a most diabolical attempt to wreck his house and perhaps destroy his own life, whilst it is providential the house itself was not at least consumed by fire. I was inspecting at Ballymacarberry on yesterday afternoon, and made most particular inquiries as to the state of affairs on his property. I learned for past few months there was not the least friction, and I was assured by the Sergeant there was not the least ill-will against his Lordship. At this time, it now turns out, Lord Ashtown was actually in the Lodge (having arrived at 7.30 p.m. previous evening, Monday 11th instant.)* The police, who on every previous occasion had been informed of his arrival, had not on this occasion. On the last one his gamekeeper, Graham, wrote down at once to the sergeant, and on this, when the outrage occurs, the first learned of his presence is the report about 2 a.m. the day of the outrage. For past five or six months Graham and family have been occupying rooms in the Lodge. But a gamekeeper's lodge has been preparing for him in the grounds, and it was expected in a very short time he would be removing to latter. At the time of occurrence there was in the lodge Graham, his wife, and her sister. In coachhouse in yard was the under-

* [Note by Deputy Inspector-General.-Monday was the 12th.]

gamekeeper, and in the house in grounds intended for Graham was Mrs. Graham's brother. In addition, of course, to Lord Ashtown. It is inconceivable how any man would approach the house, as in this instance, and run on the premises. I do not believe any of the natives would conntenance or conceive such an outrage. Lord Ashtown, as a landlord, has always been well disposed towards and appreciated by his tenants. The friction which some months ago existed in regard to rabbits was entirely owing to the gamekeepers, and for some months past there has not been the slightest renewal. The appointment, too, of one of his large tenants - a Mr. Nugent -quite close to seene, to the Magistracy, was generally calculated to make for peace and concord in the locality. Lord Ashtown will, no doubt, seek compensation from the County for malicious injuries, and so expressed himself. I have given the fullest instructions to Head-Constable O'Leary and local Sergeant (who are both very intelligent men) as to conduct of inquiries, and I am sure nothing will be omitted to elucidate as far as possible the mystery surrounding the occurrence. This is a very hasty report, but I wish Government, as early as possible, to be acquainted with its main features. The Chief Inspecter of Explosives has been communicated with, but does not at present consider a visit necessary. Gunpowder, more probably blasting powder, was used and the paraffin or petroleum for the purpose of setting premises on fire.

I. R. B. JENNINGS, C.L.

LG

P.S.—I give a rough sketch over of house.

IL

WAYERFORD, 17th August, 1907.

I visited some again yesterday and sport considerable time looking into master in connocion with any first visit. It is by no mane foar what was the notifier, or how or where the outrage was planned. The only point of the property of the control of the property of the control of the property is a property or ongoine had a special control of the control of the property of the post and or explosion the parallia (which is an orderly connected with the time, and on explosion the parallia (which is an explosion), and that some was appears to me that the blasting or other provider was superated in the post and orderly connected with the first point of explosion of the post and of the post and of the post and of the post and the p

I. R. B. JENNINGS, C.L.

Inspector-General.

EXPLOSION AT GLENAHIERY, 147H AUGUST, 1907.

COUNTY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

Waverford, 14th September, 1907.

Submitted as requested by Impector-General: Minute of 11th instant, 3977 O. 1 thath is right to nemtion that from my examination of the scene came to the conclusion (1) that the window was shut, (2) shutters closed but now barred, and (3) done thut or list is, and that (4) a considerable quantity of proving (not necessarily "blacking") was used. I have no reason to change that equinal from a presul of this report. ** As the latter does not impact to be compileted. I can add nothing further that the continuous control of the continuous control of the contr

I. B. B. Jennings, C.I.

1.0

(*Nozz.—The report here referred to is District Inspector Preston's report of 7th September, 1907, objectly laid upon the Table.)



EXPLOSION AT LORD ASHTOWN'S LODGE, GLENAHIERY, COUNTY WATERFORD.

COPIES OF:-

- (1.) The Report of District Inspector Preston, Royal Irish Constabulary, to the Police Authorities, dated 7th September, 1907.
- (2) The Statement of District Inspector Preston, dated 11th September, 1007, farnished to Lord Ashtown, to the County Council of Waterford, and to the Rural District Council of Clonnel, No. 2.
- (3.) The Statement of Sergeant Rielly, dated 22nd August, 1907, furnished to the same parties, and referred to in the Statement of District Inspector Preston, dated 11th September, 1907.

Presented to both Honors of Parliament by Command of Sits Majesty.



PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE, By Didling & Son Law, 34.40 Brown Street, P.

And the perchand either tirecity or through any Bookseller, from WYMAM, and SUSS, Lev., Ferran Lass, E.C., and 32, Annexes SUSS, Lev., Percentage of Collyge & Bookseller, Collyge & Boylon, Temperate Court, Experience, or E. PONSONEY, 116, GALTON STREEN, DUBLIN, 1988.

[Cd. 3977.] Price 1d.



EXPLOSION AT LORD ASHTOWN'S LODGE, GLENAHIERY, COUNTY WATERFORD.

(1.)

The Report of District Inspector Preston, Royal Irish Constabulary, to the Police Authorities, dated 7th September, 1907.

Carroquis, 7th September, 1907. I beg to report that about 1.35 a.m. on 14th August last a bomb was exploded at Lord Ashtown's Shooting Lodge at Glenshiery, doing considerable damage. At 2.15 a.m., Thomas Thompson, under-keeper, reported the fact at Ballymacarberry Barrack, and at 2.45 a.m. Serseant Patrick Rielly visited the scene. He was the only available policeman at the moment, as the rest of the party was on detachment duty. The Sergeant found Lord Ashtown and his gamekeeper, James Graham, in the drawing-room. The room bore unmistakable traces of an explosion having occurred, and of fire. The door was in splinters and scattered about the hall. All the glass of the ocor was in spinnters and solutered about the nati. All the gass of the window facing be door was slattered, and the shutters were lying on the floor amidst a quantity of other debris. Some of the woodwork of the window was looened and charred. Furniture and other strictes were broken and upset. The curtains of the window facing the door had been brined, and the glass in the other two windows of the room had been broken. In Lord Ashtown's bedroom, which is immediately overhead the drawing-room, slight damage was done. A slab of the mantel-piece was loosened from its bod, and there were several small cracks in the interior plaster of the walls; otherwise the room was intact. There were numerous pieces of metal and glass lying about the drawing-room floor, and the carpet appeared to have been on fire. The presence of paraffin oil was obvious. It was apparent that the bomb had been placed on the outside still of that window of the drawing-room which faces the door. Outside the house was found a line of burnt fuse, about five yards long, leading from this window to a small shrubbery on the lawn. A number of pieces of metal and of broken glass were scattered about the grass and path. A paraffinsaturated sack, and the remains of three quart bettles, which had held the oil, were found outside the window. About 50 yards away, under a tree, were found a second sack (in which were some particles of blasting powder), and a pole, which appeared to have once been the handle of a garden "hand" barrow. On this sack, which was unfolded on the ground, there was the impression as if of a pot. An old zine bucket was also found near the scene.

At the time of the contrage I was on duty in the County Antrina, and, though I was writed to return at one by the Inspector General, I did not arrive on the sease until I'ld Anguest. In this interim Mr. Jenninger, C.I., Mr. Bogers, in the contrage of the property of the contrage of the

door. Amongst the debris was found an iron band, 1½ inches wide, and ½ an inch thick, and recently worked. This appeared to have been passed under the pot, and up both the sides rather more than flush with the lid. The ends of this band were threaded to receive nuts, but the upper portions enus or time cann were timescent to second on the state of the threads had been blown off. A flat metal plate, 1½ inches wide, was also found. It was slightly bent, and had four holes bored in it, as if intended to fit on the threaded three-sided band. Two mits, with the missing portion of the threads attached were also found. If was apparent that the lid of the pot had been scenred in position by these articles. From the way in which the glass had broken, and from the general appearance of the scene, I formed the opinion, which has since been verified, that blasting powder was the explosive used; also, that only a comparatively small quantity was used. The damage done could not have been reconciled with the theory that the pot was even half full of powder. I observed that the lower half of the window at which the explosion occurred was open almost to its full extent. I was informed, when I cauquired, that it was found in that position after the explosion, and that it had been blown into such position from its original one. A searching exami-hation led me to form a very definite conclusion,—that at the time the explosion occurred this window was wile open. Further search forced me to two additional conclusions: (1) that the shutters of the window were neither shut, nor barred, at the time, and (2) that the drawing-room door was also wide open. Having found out these facts, and considering the statements of Graham and of Alice Codd (to which I will refer later), I at once wired to head quarters for a personal interview, and asking that a Home Office expert should be sent. Both requests were sanctioned; and at a personal interview on 19th August, 1907, I gave the Inspector-General and the Deputy Inspector-General the evidence in detail which supported my assertions. As the expert's (Captain Lloyd) report subsequently confirmed, in the smallest detail, all that I then said, and as it is available, it seems unnecessary for me to go into periodists in this report of what the expert can prove. I have, however, my own written statement of what I found. Sergeant Reid's photographs in conjunction with Captain Lloyd's evidence will demonstrate beyond all question the fact that the window was open. I am given to understand that on the night of the explosion the house was occupied by Lord Ashtown, James Graham, head gamekeeper, Mrs. Graham and two young children, and Alice Cudd, Mrs. Graham's sister, who was seting as housemaid. Thomas Thompson, under-keeper, slept in a room in the vard. On 17th August Graham told me that, on the night of the 13th, while Lord Ashtown was at dinner, between 8 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., he went into the drawing-room, and shut all the windows, and shut and harred all the shutters. He was quite positive and on 19th August, and subsequently, he repeated his statement. Alice Codd, who showed temper at being questioned at all, and whose demeanour was flippont, stated that, after Lord Ashtown went to bed, about 9.30 p.m., she went into the drawingroom, and put out the lights. She was certain the shutters were then shut, and she was positive she shut the door when she left the room. Questioned by me, on a later date, the was not positive she sout the dear, but certain she closed it. At this point it occurs to me to put on paper what has struck me all along as unusual and not to be expected; the fact that the women of the household have taken the whole matter quite exolly, and have never shown the least signs of alarm, or natural fear-quite the contrary! In view of the statements of Graham and Alice Cudd on 17th August, and the ascertained facts regarding the window, I drew four deductions, which I reported personally at head quarters on 20th August, and which I now repeat, as they . practically amount to facts :-

 "Strangers would have been deterred from a criminal intention on "finding the window unexpectedly open."

"Had the perpetrators intended to kill Lord Ashtown, they would
 have been more likely to do so if they had put the bomb
 inside the room—which was simple when the window was
 ropen."

"To open the window, shutters, and door was calculated to minimise
 the damage by reducing the resistance."

I am quite satisfied that, whatever the intention may have been, and whoever exploded the bomb, there was absolutely no desire to kill Lord Ashtowu,

whoever expected the bomb, there was absolutely no desire to kill Lord Ashtorm, or to do really serious harm to the bosos. Hel distinct object been ought, even or to do really serious harm to the bosos. Hel distinct has more bestines-the manner. Most of the "meas" was due to purchase in a more bestines-the manner. Most of the "meas" was due to purchase in a more bestines-the manner. Most of the "meas" was due to purchase the analysis of the door, and had that been shur it would predictally have energed injury. Its own momentum, caused by the direct rule of sirt, pulliment in our the opposing jumb.

There was no sign that an entry had been attempted by any door or window, and Graham in a stand that "all was secure after the exposion." So window, and Graham in a stand that "all was secure after the exposion." So with the constant of the standard of t

The pot used to make the bomb has a peculiar "lug" or "ear" attached to it to enable it to be slung on the "hangers" over a fire. (The pencil drawing on margin will show what I mean.) A portion of the homb with the "lug" attached was shown to Mrs. Williamson, widow of the late gamekeeper at Glenshiery-Graham's predecessor. She says that when she left Glenshiery Lodge, rather more than a year ago, she left behind in the pump-house a similar pot in size and shape, and with similar "lugs." She said this pot was used to hold lime-wash, and was covered with lime both inside and outside. The fragments of the homb have since been analysed, and are found to be stained with lime on both sides in considerable quantities. There is no such pot at Glènahiery now. Edward Allen, carpenter, says he made a hand barrow for Lord Ashtown four years ago; and that since the explosion, in consequence of what James Ormond, rent-warner, told him, he has searched for this barrow and failed to find it. The handle found on the scene has been shown to him, and he says he believes it is his own work. He admitted to Constable Dukelow that Ormont cautioned him to say nothing about the barrow. Some days before the explosion a quantity of old timber was sent from the house to the saw-mill to be cut into firewood. Ormond has searched the mill for the barrow since the explosion, and seemed uneasy about it. The police can find no trace of the barrow.

When Sergeant Rielly first arrived on the scene Lord Ashtown was under the influence of drink, and Isughed immoderately about what had occurred. treating the whole affair as a great joke. Graham was very silent; indeed he always is. Lord Ashtown went back to bed after a time. On that night all the dogs on the premises were, contrary to custom, locked up by Graham. He gave me as his reason that he did not want his own dogs to be fighting with the strange dogs his Lordship had brought with him. I asked him what necessity was there to look up his own dogs when the strange ones were locked up? He said he didn't know; and that they had all becu locked up the previous night also. The Home Office expert told me that the fuse used is peculiar, and is only made by Bickford, Smith & Co., Camborne, Cornwall, I have ascertained that this fuse is not sold locally. It has been suggested that the outrage was the work of some mountain tenants of Lord Ashtown at Boolabrien, who have recently been restrained from cutting turf on the mountain. I have most carefully enquired into this, and am quite satisfied these people are not capable of conceiving or carrying out such a plot. It cannot be said that Lord Ashtown is not popular in Ballymacarberry. There has been some friction about the turbary rights on the mountain, and between high-handed game-keepers and a few tenants about ground game rights, but nothing serious enough to provoke such an outrage. On the

other hand. I am experienced that no strangers from Galway could have control our distorge and have remained untraved up to now. I have been able to minimize the movements of several level persons whose manes were neggoed as longin junipirents. As I was transled with a "feet hand" in this cose, in death of the minimize the person of follow cach separate supposent of the or to mention by month the present, and cache to generate supposed to the or to mention by month these pieces, and cache to generate the person of the or the military large of the person of

An information has been made, and £200 compensation will be sought at Dungarvan Quarter Sessions on 19th inst. Lord Ashtown has offered £100 reward for information leading to a conviction.

E. G. Piererox, 3. D.L.

(2.)

The Statement of District Inspector Preston, dated lith September, 1907, furnished to Lord Ashtown, to the County Council of Waterford, and to the Rural District Council of Clommel, No. 2.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

DISTRICT OF CAPPOQUIS.
Chaptequia.

At about 1.85 a.m., on the 14th August last, a bout was explosited.

At about 1.85 a.m., on the 14th August last, a bout was explained at Lord
Ashtown's shooting lodge at Glenchkey, doing considerable shaunge. Sergeate
Patrick Rielly visited the scene within an hour of the occurrence, and his report
regarding what he found has already been furnished.

At the time of the outrage I was on duty in County Astrim, and, though I was wired to return at once by the Inspector General, I did not arrive on the scene until the 17th August. In the interim, Mr. Jennings, C.I., 2Mr. Rogers, C.I., and Mr. Tweedy, D.I., had visited the scene. In accordance with my instructions, I cook, and as still in, entire clearer of the case.

When I arrived at Glenshiery Lodge I caused everything to be replaced exactly as found by the police who were early on the scene; though, indeed, with the exception of those articles which it was necessary to take possession of, the whole place appeared undisturbed. I was informed by the local police that the explosion had been caused by a metal bomb, and I was shown by them a number of pieces of metal, which I examined. I found that these pieces of metal formed portions of what had been an oval pot, measuring $(16 \times 12) \times 10$ inches. It appeared to have had a metal lid, in which five circular holes had been bored as if to admit the fuse. All the pieces were marked with exploded powder, and there were powder marks on the ceiling of the drawing-room, and on the woodwork of portions of the unmovable structure of the window facing the door. Amongst the debris was found an iron band about 14 inches wide, and an inch thick, and recently worked. This appeared to have been passed under the pot, and up both the sides rather more than flush with the lid. The ends of this band were threaded to receive nuts, but the upper portions of the threads had been blown off. A flat metal plats about 1½ inches wide was also found. It was slightly bent and had four holes hored in it, as if intended to fit on the threaded three-sided hand. Two nuts, with the missing portions of the threads attached were also found. It was apparent that the lid of the pot had been secured in position by these articles.

I observed that the lower half of the window at which the explosion occurred was open almost to its full extent. I was informed, when I enquired, that it was found in that position after the explosion, and it was stated that it had been blown into such position. A searching examination led me to form the conclusions that, (1) the bomb had been placed on the outside window-sill of that window of the drawing-room which faces the door, and that at the time of the explosion (2) this window was wide open, (3) the shutters were open and unbarred, and (4) the drawing-room door was wide open,

I was given to understand that on the night of the explosion the house was occupied by Lord Ashtown, James Graham, gamekeeper, Mrs. Graham, her two young children, and Alice Cudd, Mrs. Graham's sister. I questioned Graham on the 17th August, and subsequently on the 19th and 21st, with reference to the closing of doors and windows on the night of the 13th August. He stated that, while Lord Ashtown was at dinner, between 8 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. he went into the drawing-room and shut all the windows and shut and berred all the shutters. Alice Codd stated on the 17th and again on the 19th August. that on the night of the explosion, after Lord Ashtown had gone to bed, about 9.30 p.m., she went into the drawing-room and put out the lights. She was certain the shutters were then shut, and that she shut the door when she came out.

I reported these matters to the Inspector General, and I asked that an expert in explosives from the Home Office should be sent. On the 21st August Captain Lloyd from the Home Office visited the scene, and he corroborated the conclusions to which I had come. Sergeant Reid, R.L.C. photographer, took

photographs of the window on the same date.

The pot used had peculiar "lugs" or "ears" for hanging it upon the "hangers" over the fire. One portion of the pot had one of these "lugs" atached intact. This portion was shown on the 26th August to Mrs. Ligs" Williamson, widow of the former gamekeeper, and who had resided in Glenahiery Lodge for many years up to about twelve months ago. She stated that when she left Glenahiery there was a similar pot, with similar "lugs" lving in the pump-house there, in which pot white-wash used to he kept. On receipt of this statement I caused a number of portions of the bomb to be analysed, with the result that traces of lime were found on both sides of the portions submitted to the analyst. No such pot can be found about Glenahiery now

Near the scene of the explosion were found what appeared to have once formed the handle of a "hand" barrow, and two small loops of cord. By these loops it would have been possible to sling the pot upon the pole. On the 19th August I saw Edward Allen, foreman carpenter at Lord Ashtown's saw-mills at Ballymacarherry. He stated that he made a "hand" barrow for Lord Ashtown about four years ago, and that he last saw that barrow in the summer of 1906. Since the explosion he says he has searched for the barrow, because James Ormond told him it was missing, and he could not find it. He called at the Barrack to see the handle found by the police, and he said it was like the handle he made, as it was made out of larch paling. The police have been unable to trace this barrow.

Graham told me that on the night of the 13th August he locked up, in separate houses, his own dogs and the strange dogs which Lord Ashtown had brought with him. He gave as his reason that he did not want his dogs to be fighting with the strange dogs. I saked him what was the necessity for locking up both lots of dogs. He replied that he did not know, but that he had locked them up the previous night also.

A few small particles of blasting powder were discovered in one of the sacks found at the scene of the explosion:

Graham stated to me that when he came downstairs after the explosion he found all doors and windows intact, except for the damage done by the explosion. I carefully examined the house for signs of a forcible entry having been effected, and found no trace.

E. G. PRESTON, D.L., R.LC.

The Statement of Sergeant Rielly, dated 22nd August, 1907, furnished to the same parties, and referred to in the Statement of District Inspector Preston, dated 11th September, 1907.

APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION BY LORD ASHTOWN FOR INJURY TO GLENAHIERY LODGE BY EXPLOSION.

It being reported to the police, at 2.15 a.m., on 14th August, 1907, that an explosion had taken place at Lord Ashtown's lodge at Glenahiery, Ballymscarberry, between half-pass one and two o'clock same morning, Sergeant Patrick Rielly visited the scene about 2.45 a.m.

A beat explosion appeared to have recently occurred on sill of investigation window. The glass in the vinilors of that room was shottered and pertians were stream about the room. The woodwork of the corner window was supported by the contract was a stream about the room. The woodwork of the corner window was lying in the room and aboved makes of free, and the curricin were almost bursed. The sill was attarted with apparently parallize oil, and inside and existed was stream with belocking pass and fragments of a metal pc.

The room measures about fifteen by recent fact. It has one door and three plate-glass valuebox, seven and a laft by three and a laft feat. The slow was completely splittered and blown into the hall. The blinds and one of the injuried by fire. A chair, side-table, handle, growing the control injuried by fire. A chair, side-table, handle, growing the control of the

on the outside were found some portions of a metal pot, two sacks, an old sine bucket, the remains of three glass bottles, a piece of timber about seven and a baif feet long, a lath about fitness include long with three holes in it and burned fuse in holes, also a line of burned fuse about five or six yards long.

Sergeant, 48611.

Bellymacarberry, 22nd August, 1907.